

# STROKE KILLS PREMIER STALIN

## Successor in Doubt; Leaders Call Upon People for Unity

LONDON, FRIDAY, March 6.—Josef Stalin died last night behind the 12-foot-thick walls of Moscow's Kremlin. He dominated a third of the world's peoples as the most powerful dictator in history.

The Prime Minister of the Soviet Union and the Supreme Chief of the Communist party succumbed at 9:50 p. m. (1:50 p. m. Pottstown time), four days after suffering a brain hemorrhage (stroke).

He had been in coma since he was stricken Sunday night and his condition grew progressively worse. Yesterday his ten physicians said his heart was faltering.

The announcement of his death was broadcast from Moscow at 4:05 a. m. Moscow time today—more than six hours after his doctors had given up their struggle.

The official announcement said:

"The heart of the comrade and inspired continuer of Lenin's will the wise leader and teacher of the Communist party and the Soviet people—Josef Vissarionovich Stalin—has stopped beating."

There was no immediate indication from Moscow who was taking over control of the country but the announcement was issued in the name of the Communist party's Central committee, the Council of Ministers and the Presidium of the Supreme council. All these are organs which Stalin dominated and

### Stalin to Lie in State

LONDON, Friday, March 6.—The Moscow radio announced today that Prime Minister Stalin will lie in state in Moscow's famed Hall of Columns.

The broadcast said seven party leaders headed by N. S. Khrushchev, a secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, will make funeral arrangements.

Six others making up the funeral commission are party bigwigs but none has been mentioned as a possible successor to Stalin.

Among those next to him in power have been Georgi Malenkov, L. P. Beria, A. M. Molotov and Nikolai Bulganin.

As if appealing for unity, the official statement said:

"In these sorrowful days in our country even closer in a great fraternal family under the tested leadership of the Communist party created and reared by Lenin and Stalin."

The most prominent leader of the Communist party next to Stalin has been Malenkov. He keynoted the All Party Congress the past October, laying down the

## Rev. William Kistler Is Dead at 84 After Illness of Over Year

The Rev. William Kistler, 84, of 118 Main street, Pottstown, pastor of Pottstown area parishes for 53 years and member of an unusual team of amateur botanists died late Tuesday in Allentown hospital.

The pastor, who had retired in 1930, had been in failing health for more than a year.

For 46 years he was pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran church, Pottstown, beginning in 1904. The Pottstown parish then included St. John's Lutheran church, Spinnerstown, near Quakertown.

In 1930 the parish became a three-church one with the addition of Zion Hill Lutheran church near Quakertown, and in the same year a son the Rev. Henry M. Kistler, 517 Seminary street, Pottstown, became his associate.

AFTER 1930 WHEN the two churches near Quakertown became separate parishes, the son remained as pastor of St. Mark's while the father became pastor emeritus.

Eight members of the Rev. Kistler's generation of the family and the succeeding one have been ordained as ministers.

Botany was his hobby for years and at his home he had a large collection of dried and pressed

### THE WEATHER

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Some cloudiness today with a high of 40 to 45. Tomorrow: rather cloudy, becoming colder at night with some chance of snow.

## 46 Mercury 32

High Antics Low

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

Local temperatures yesterday and early this morning were:	
4 a. m.	35
5 a. m.	34
6 a. m.	34
7 a. m.	34
8 a. m.	34
9 a. m.	34
10 a. m.	34
11 a. m.	34
12 m.	42
1 p. m.	42
2 p. m.	44
3 p. m.	44



LAURENTI BERIA



GEORGI MALENKOV



V. M. MOLOTOV



N. A. BULGANIN

One of these four men may be the successor to Soviet Premier Josef Stalin. Washington experts have hinted that a possible triumvirate consisting of Beria, Malenkov and Molotov may be the heirs under the dead Premier's political will. At present, control is believed to rest in the hands of Malenkov and Molotov.

## Death of Stalin Marks Start of Contest For Power That May Change History

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER  
WASHINGTON, March 6.—The death of Josef Stalin was believed here tonight to have signalled the start of a contest for power among his chief followers which will have incalculable consequences for war or peace in the world.

At present the machinery of control over the sprawling Communist empire is believed to be technically in the hands of G. M. Malenkov and V. M. Molotov.

Malenkov has been Stalin's chief lieutenant in running the Communist party in Russia, which American officials have long regarded as the real center of power. Molotov has been Stalin's chief deputy premier.

What will happen now is anybody's guess. President Eisenhower with all the resources of intelligence information at his command made this clear at his news conference today.

EISENHOWER SAID that with his advisors he had considered all the possibilities of future developments and had come back to what he started with—meaning that no one could definitely say what the next turn of events will be. The attitude of the United States Gov-

### Chief Reports Phillies Answered 21 Fire Calls

The Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine company answered 21 calls during the past month, Chief Victor Fegley reported at a monthly meeting attended by 31 members last night.

Members voted during the meeting to authorize the purchase of six new lures for the fire engine.

President Henry G. Schmoyer who led the meeting announced that a fire school will be held March 30 at the Good Will firehall.

## Perkiomen Dam Issue Decision Close

The hotly-disputed proposal the residents of the creek area a whether a dam will be built on the chance to develop the water-hed to Perkiomen creek may be decided their advantage Wednesday.

The State Water Power and Resources board will meet in Harrisburg on that day and may decide on the Philadelphia Suburban Water company's proposal to build a dam on the creek in the Green Lane area. R. J. Gillis, deputy secretary of the department of forests and waters, said yesterday.

Residents, township officials and members of the Friends of the Perkiomen Valley have protested strongly construction of a dam.

They claim that the proposed \$4,200,000 dam would place extra expenses on communities and deny

THE COMPANY, serving 450,000 persons in Montgomery, Chester, Bucks and Delaware counties, claims it must have a dam to ensure a water supply for future population of the area.

In 1931 the company was given State approval to draw an additional 15,000,000 gallons per day from Perkiomen creek.

The past Fall, representatives of ten communities and 1425 persons in the Perkiomen valley appealed the decision by the State.

One of the chief objections to the dam was that the diverting

## NOISE REDUCED AT ROBINSON CLAY PRODUCT

Neighbors Say There's Still Room for Improvement

COMPANY SPOKESMAN SAYS SITUATION TO BE REMEDIED

The noise situation at the Robinson Clay Product company that saw more than 50 residents band in protest their past Fall was reported considerably improved last night.

But still not enough, a spokesman for the original group of irate citizens said last night.

Richard C. Haury, manager of one Philadelphia district sales office of the company, said last night that the company largely had rectified the cause of the original complaint.

He said the noises from the exhaust of a steam press can now be heard only "close" to the plant.

But Iheron H. Keenan, North Montclair, street, who spoke for the citizens group before council's health and sanitation committee the past Sept. 10, said last night the condition is not cleared up.

"WE WANT the owners of the plant to know that we appreciate what they have tried to do and what they have done. The condition has definitely improved."

"But we still expect that the noise will be done away with entirely as they promised."

Still another viewpoint was brought into the picture when Councilman Charles S. Grubb, Ninth Ward, was contacted last night.

Said Grubb: "I have kept in touch with Mr. Haury and

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## Ground-Breaking For New School Set Monday at 11 A. M.

Official ground breaking ceremonies for the start of construction of the new West End elementary school will be held Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

H. Bert Snaw, president of the Pottstown school board, said representatives of the school board, the school authorities, the architectural firm that drew up plans for the building and the contracting firm that will construct it will be present.

All members of the board and the authorities have been invited," Shaw said, "and I expect a few of them will be there."

The members of the authority will be in charge of the program. Snaw, added, and will probably turn over the first spadeful of dirt.

THE NEW SCHOOL for which a loan of \$350,000 was made is expected to be completed in time for September classes.

The main section of the building will include 12 classrooms, six on each two floors.

Another section will include a large kindergarten room, a sound proof music room and a 34 by 38 foot all purpose room.

The general contractor on the job will be the C. Raymond Davis company, Kimberlton, low bidder.

Kimberlton submitted a bid of \$175,544 plus \$1300 for extras.

Work on the school project, which will be constructed due north of Penn Village, is expected to start right after the launching ceremonies Monday.



FREEMAN STONE

## MOTORIST DIES IN HOSPITAL OF CRASH INJURIES

22-Year-Old Was Second Man Killed Recently On West High St.

Freeman Stone, 22-year-old Pottstown youth whose car went out of control on West High street late Wednesday and hit the front of an auto shop room, died yesterday morning at 1:15 o'clock in Memorial hospital.

He was the second man killed in the past few months on that one mile stretch of highway in the borough.

The first was Theodore Masser Doehler, Jarvis corporation worker, killed in a two-car crash the past Oct. 20. Stone was the only one involved in his accident.

His foster mother, Mrs. Ralph L. Goettman, 1121 Queen street said that from what she learned of the accident the steering mechanism on his car must have broken.

The youth who had a skull fracture and internal injuries was unconscious most of the

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## Application to Be Made For Korea Vet Training

By CHARLES T. HEARN  
(Mercury Staff Writer)

Pottstown school district will apply for approval of day school vocational training for veterans of the Korean war.

This was decided last night at a joint meeting of the school board and 22 representatives of borough veterans groups in the Administration building.

Plans to create a night school program similar to the one conducted for World War II veterans were shelved pending approval of the application and the response of men returning from the Korean fighting in enrolling at the school under the Public Law 550 training program.

This law provides for educational benefits for veterans of the Korean war to replace Public Laws 15 and 246 used for World War II veterans.

The decision to seek approval

## Architects Explain Plans for New Gym To School Directors

Pottstown school board viewed near completed architect's plans for the new Junior and Senior High school gymnasium at a special meeting last night.

Present at the meeting with the board in the Administration building were A. R. Thomas, Whitney A. Sanders and Charles S. Bickler of Sanders and Thomas project architects. The firm also designed the West End school which will be built by the Fall term.

Bickler explained the details of the new structure which will be built next to the Junior High school building. He pointed out the features of the gymnasium from sketches projected onto a screen.

A few minor changes were

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for day school training came after a debate lasting more than an hour and 15 minutes between the board and heads of the veterans' organizations.

Pottstown veterans posts have complained that men returning from Korea have been denied the privilege of attending borough schools for vocational training because Veterans Administration approval was not sought.

PAUL LYSOBY, chairman of Pottstown Veterans council, was chairman for the complaining group last night.

He said Dr. McCormick (Dr. George A. McCormick, superintendent of schools) said about a week ago that not enough men wanted to enroll in the courses for

veterans at night, so he did not seek approval from the VA.

The reason nobody sought to enroll is because Dr. McCormick said that the schools did not have approval.

Dr. McCormick reiterated, "There were only three men who wanted to enroll. To date there have been only seven."

Lysoby went on, "There is plenty of room in the big industries in Pottstown for trained men. There are jobs in structural drawing when the schools could help train men under PL 550."

WILLIAM H. YOHAN, school board treasurer, said to Lysoby, "Our problem is what to do about

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increase in borrowing for taxes?

Somewhat more cautious was George M. Longacre, executive vice president of Security Trust company.

Longacre said that so far there has been no more borrowing than usual. He added, though, that in previous years there was a flurry of applications for loans just before the income tax deadline.

Incidentally, the more reluctant taxpayers will have an extra day of grace this year as the

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Brisk March Winds Blow Through Town

Gusty March winds of 57 to 62 miles per hour were recorded yesterday as the nearly arrived month continued its blustery wave.

John T. Baer, co-manager of Pottstown Municipal airport, reported gusts of winds from 57 to 62 miles an hour—a wind that blew out yesterday afternoon on the airport's anemometer.

It's been blowing a steady 30 to 35 miles an hour the rest of the time," he added.

Trees swayed and branches creaked while Pottstonians held tightly to their hats during

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## Dog Just Can't Tear Herself Away From Television Set

Pottstown has a television loving dog that chases horses on the screen leaps at TV goldfish and whines during heavy drama.

All this is no passing fancy of reported yesterday on Penny, a Welsh terrier owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. McCaslin, 30 Spruce street and Maplewood drive.

Penny will sit enthralled in front of the set from 5:30 p. m. to 11 p. m., leaving her place

only long enough to attend to such urgent matters as eating.

Mr. Joseph DeBlase, 254 Walnut street, sister of Mr. McCaslin, reported yesterday on Penny's television viewing of the past few days. Mr. DeBlase is looking after the children while the parents are on a brief vacation.

AS SOON as the children, Peggy, 4 and Tommy, 6, turn on the

Penny will run into the living room and take her place by the screen.

Whenever the set is turned off, Penny will look in surprise (and presumably disapproval) at the set then hurry around to the back of it to see what happened. (Penny can do no more good at the back of the set than any other amateur expert.)

Programs with plenty of dogs and horses in them are among Penny's favorites, Mrs. DeBlase reported. When the horse goes off the screen she'll chase around back after it to see if she can see where it went.

There's a tear in the tapestry over the pecker below the screen. This happened when a goldfish was shown on the screen. Penny was his first victim and so her head rearing at the box.

As for from paws glanced at the screen and Penny lay down around her paws caught in the tapestry.

THE OTHER NIGHT, Penny

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### ON THE MAIN DRAG

BARBARA KEIM

—looking for a boy

DONALD WATERS

—being missed at the round table

HELEN MILLER

—in for a meeting

JOSE MUNSON

—expecting to come good music

ANDREW HUMS

—looking cheerful on his 20th birthday

PEGGY QUINN

—a kind of a good name

JACK ECK

—been a surf head and

EDITHA KEENE

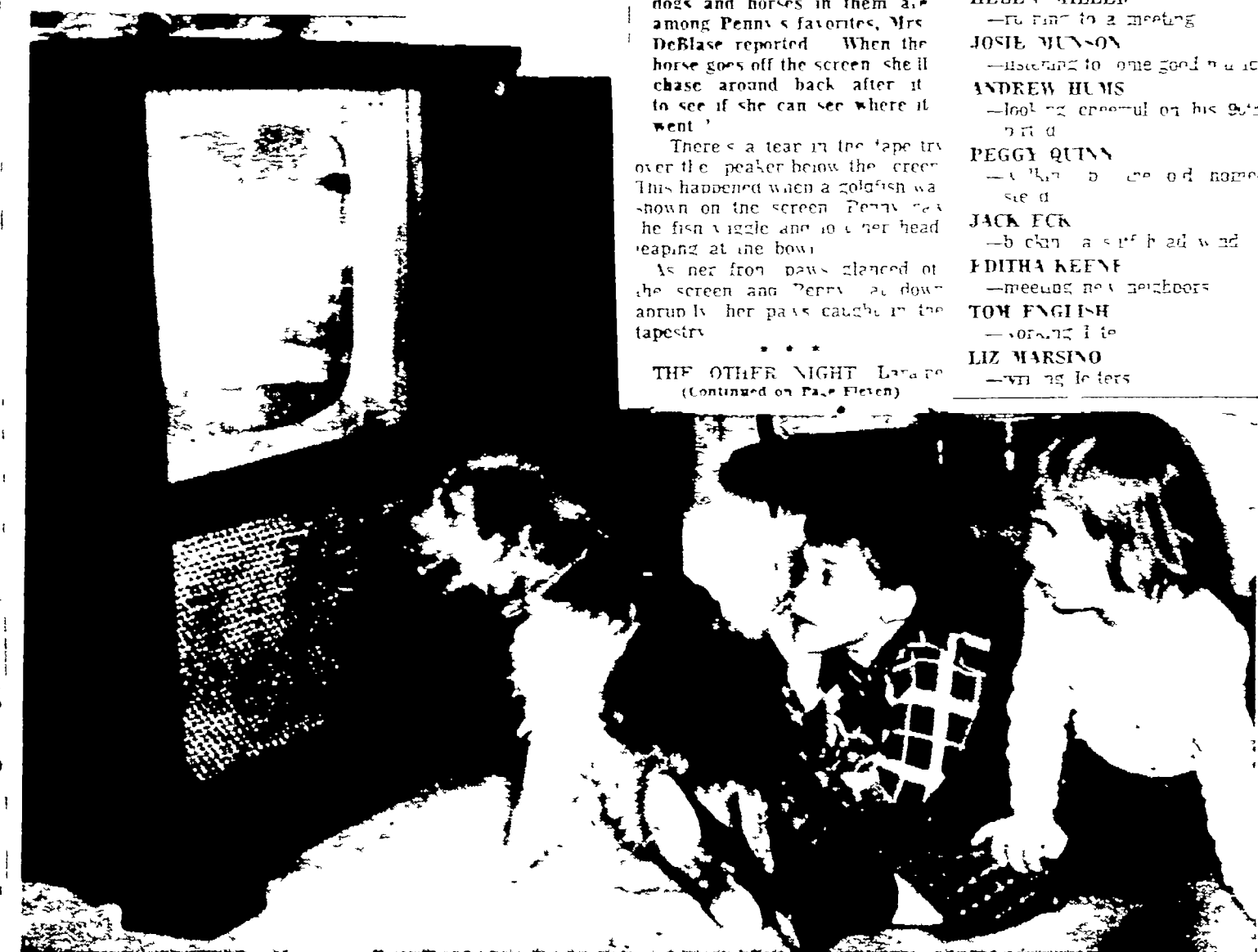
—meeting new neighbors

TOM ENGLISH

—working to

LIZ MARSHO

—winning letters



"Well, let's see some action!" If Penny, the Welsh terrier, of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. McCaslin, 30 Spruce street and Maplewood drive, could talk, that's what she'd probably say. Penny is fascinated by television (all channels), will sit for six hours straight watching one program after another. She believes in audience participation,

will chase horses on the screen or leap at goldfish. With her are the McCaslin's children, Peggy, 4, and Tommy, 6. There was no problem posing the dog. The problem was unposing her once the set was turned on. She might be sitting there yet if Peggy hadn't kept calling her.

—Mercury Staff Photo